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News Release

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For Immediate Release

NCCCS President to Deliver Spring Commencement Address at SCC

Dr. Scott Ralls, president of the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) will serve as the commencement speaker for spring graduation at Southeastern Community College. The graduation exercises will take place on Friday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. on the stage erected in front of A-Building on the college campus.



With 58 colleges serving more than 800,000 students each year, the NCCCS is the third largest in the United States and is internationally recognized for its programs to foster economic and workforce development. Dr. Ralls is the System's seventh president.

Having assumed the presidency on May 1, 2008, Dr. Ralls is only the second system president to have served as a local North Carolina community college president and the first in 30 years. Between 2002 and 2008, he served as the president of Craven Community College with campuses located in New Bern and Havelock, N.C. During his tenure, the college achieved record enrollment growth and annual fundraising support, and gained recognition for innovations in technology-based workforce development. Craven Community College also became known for its broad-based community engagement, and in 2007 Dr. Ralls received the Freedom Fund Award from the Craven County NAACP

for his "efforts to actively identify and incorporate the true needs of the community into the mission of Craven Community College."

Dr. Ralls has been an active leader in North Carolina's early college and high school transformation initiatives, having been appointed to the North Carolina New Schools Board by Governor Mike Easley. With 37 early college high schools on its campuses, North Carolina community colleges host 22 percent of the early college high schools in the United States.

Dr. Ralls has previously held workforce development leadership positions at the state and national levels, including as Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development for the NCCCS where he helped foster collaborative initiatives with North Carolina's biotechnology and information technology industries. He has also previously served as the Director of the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Division of Employment and Training where he worked closely with the state's Workforce Development Boards and provided state oversight of job training

programs for disadvantaged individuals and those affected by plant closings. At the national level, he served as the Manager of Workforce Programs for the National Institute of Standards and Technology at the U.S. Department of Commerce, where he fostered workforce development initiatives through the national network of manufacturing extension centers, and as a policy specialist with the U.S. Department of Labor where he authored the national report, *Integrating Technology with Workers in the New American Workplace*, and was a recipient of the Secretary's Exceptional Achievement Award.

Dr. Ralls holds a Bachelor of Science degree with highest distinction from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and master's and Ph.D. degrees in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from the University of Maryland, where his research focused on technology implementation, workforce training and issues affecting older workers.

For more information about Southeastern's spring graduation, refer to the college's Website at www.sccnc.edu or call 642-7141. In the event of inclement weather, the commencement exercises will be held in the Whiteville High School gymnasium.